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20 October 1975

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Executive Council Meeting on 14 October 1975

Mr. Walsh chaired. Substituting were Messrs. [REDACTED]

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1. The Director attended the meeting to brief the Executive Council on the status of the investigations. He said he thinks we are about half way through, but that the next month or two will be very unpleasant because information the Rockefeller Commission reviewed but did not make public will be released piecemeal by the Committees and will probably be given sensationalized treatment in the press. Mr. Colby doesn't think there will be much new and, in fact, most of the material will be based on situations the Agency itself discovered and reported to the Committees.

2. The Senate seems likely to continue focusing on abuses such as mail opening, covert action, etc., but may devote some time to the quality of estimates. The House's approach has been somewhat more interesting, focusing on costs, quality, and risks.

3. Mr. Colby commented that the agencies seem to be working together a bit better now that the Committees have turned their attention to matters outside the CIA.

4. Mr. Colby said he was concerned about the effect on morale of developments in the investigations and wanted the group's impression of the degree to which the hearings had hurt the Agency's effectiveness. The consensus was the morale in the DDI is surprisingly high under the circumstances partly as a matter of drawing together while under attack. There has been no discernable drop in the effort expended on substantive matters. In the long run, however, a continuation of the barrage of criticism in the press is bound to have an adverse effect. [REDACTED] noted that it would be unfortunate if criticisms of "intelligence failures" were to lead to a proliferation of unwarranted warnings and alerts. So far, this does not seem to be a problem.

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5. Mr. Walsh noted that there is a feeling that the Agency has not done enough to get the story of its successes across. Mr. Colby said he hoped soon to be able to use the material that had been prepared for him on successes.

6. In discussing the Checklist and other services we are providing for Congress, it was noted that this potentially large market might overwhelm our analytical sources. Mr. Colby acknowledged the difficulty and said we might have to take another look at our analytical resources.

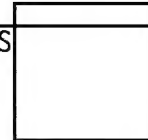
7. Mr. Walsh reported that the [] Report went to the President and others over the weekend and that broader circulation within the Agency was under consideration.

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